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What is Power BI Gateway?

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Power BI Gateway is a software application that works as a secure bridge, enabling secure communication between the on-premises data source and the Power BI Service (Cloud) to connect to and access the data stored.

> *"Microsoft Power BI is the life-blood of business intelligence platforms, and 97% of Fortune 500 companies use it today."*
>
> *Markets and Markets*

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Role of Power BI Gateway

Problem: *If your data is stored on any on-premises data sources, the problem is cloud service cannot directly access this data due to security and network restrictions.*

Solution: *The Power BI Gateway securely pulls out fresh data when needed from the on-premises data sources without any manual uploading.*

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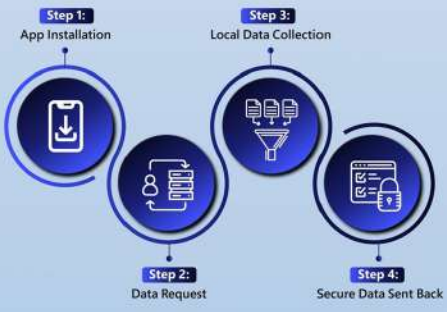
Power BI Gateway Mechanics



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Quick Tips to Build Reports Using Power BI Gateway

- Add the data source in the gateway
- Link Your Dataset to the Gateway
- Schedule the refresh

Pro Tip: When you open the "Scheduled Refresh", turn it on, set your frequency and times, and enable failure alerts so you will get updates on failures early.

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PowerBI Gateway: Personal vs Enterprise Mode

Personal	Enterprise (Standard)
Built for one user	Built for whole teams
Runs under your Windows login	Runs as an always-on service
Only your own datasets	Multiple users and shared workspaces
Stops when you log off	Central management and access control
Good for testing	Made for production

Pro Tip: If you are using it for individual use, personal mode works best, but if you are working with shared databases, go for enterprise mode!

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How to Install Power BI Gateway

1. **Download the installer:** Visit the Power BI Gateway page and choose between two modes
2. **Sign in:** Use the same account as your Power BI service to link the gateway to your workstation environment.
3. **Name it and set a recovery key:** This key allows you to restore or move the gateway later, if required.
4. **Check and confirm it is online:** Check the "App" or "Manage gateways."
5. **Install your drivers:** Sources like Oracle or MySQL need their drivers on the same machine.

Pro Tip: Install it on a machine that is always on. A laptop that sleeps will cause failed refreshes, so a server or 24/7 VM is the safer bet.

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